

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO



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NEWS RELEASE

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City Council Approves Major Neighborhood Improvements For Council District Three

SAN DIEGO- At its regularly scheduled Council meeting on December 8th, the City Council approved a series of critical neighborhood improvement allocations which will benefit Council District Three directly. Included in the actions taken were the approval of a \$544,000 sidewalk replacement contract earmarked solely for locations in Council District Three, and funds for the installation of street lights and the modernization of traffic signals throughout the city.

"The Third District has some of the oldest sidewalks in the city. When I was elected in 2000, I vowed to make improving these sidewalks one of my top priorities," said Deputy Mayor Atkins. "The action taken by this Council today is a major step forward toward improving these sidewalks. This substantial allocation shows that the Mayor and Council understand that this is a top priority for the residents of the Third District."

Since taking office, Deputy Mayor Atkins has been a strong advocate for identifying additional resources for infrastructure projects throughout the district. This contract will replace 266 sidewalk locations that have been on the city's backlog list for extensive periods of time.

"This is the first time I can recall the Council approving a district-specific contract for sidewalk repairs which includes a partnership of efforts and resources between the Streets Division and a Council office," said Atkins. "I view this as a creative way to focus on and whittle down the repairs backlog that has accumulated during difficult budgetary times."

In addition to the approval of the sidewalks contract, the Council also approved two contracts that will allow for the much-needed installation of traffic signals and street lights. The contracts will assist with the Council District Three Mid-Block Street Light Program, which was funded with \$400,000 from the District Three infrastructure loan. Under this program, mid-block streetlights will be installed throughout the district, with priority given to those requests that have been lingering on the city's streetlight backlog. In addition, the contract will help install lights on El Cajon Boulevard and Adams Avenue.

"Whenever we can access funds to make critical neighborhood and public safety improvements to our older, urban communities, we've hit a home run," said Atkins. "Improving the aging infrastructure

continues to be the primary focus of my attention in the district, and this Council action is another victory in our quest to improve the quality of life for District Three residents and create neighborhoods we can be proud of."

Construction on the sidewalks will run from March until August of 2004. The installation of the street lights and the modernization of traffic signals will be an ongoing project throughout 2004.

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